

THE FARM.

other kinds, more especially on dry soils, where some other varieties are unable to maintain a hold upon the soil.

Sacaline.

Subscriber, Welland, Ont.: What is your opinion of sacaline? Would you advise me to plant some of it this year?

ANS.—Sacaline has not been planted generally enough as yet for us to know what its worth is as a fodder plant. Some who have tried it report favorably on it, while others do not have a high estimation of it. The great trouble seems to be to get live stock to eat it when they can get other fodder or pasture. There does not seem to be much trouble in getting it to grow.

Time for Sowing Crops.

E. Meldrum, Goderich: When a farmer has much work to do in the spring and is crowded for time, in what order should he sow the different grain crops, on the supposition that the ground has been made ready in the fall?

ANS.—If spring wheat is to be sown at all, it should come first. Unless spring wheat is given an early start, it is almost certain that it will not prove a good crop. After spring wheat, oats or barley should follow. Which of these should come first will depend somewhat on the danger that may be feared from frost. Of the two, oats is the more hardy plant, and yet it is usually important to have barley sown early. Peas may come last. They, too, may be sown quite early with advantage, but delay will injure them less than the other crops named.

Rolling Meadows.

H. Dunning, Stratford: What is your opinion about rolling meadows in the early spring? Is it necessary to roll them every year? When can the rolling be done to the best advantage?

ANS.—Usually it is not necessary to roll meadows every year, but to this there are exceptions. The object of rolling is, first, to smooth the surface of the ground so that the mower will run smoothly, and, second, to make the earth firm around the grass roots that may have heaved in the early spring. On sandy soil the ground does not heave, and the surface usually lies smoothly; hence rolling these surfaces, when no stones are in the way, would seem to be a superfluous work at any season of the year. But clay soils which lie less evenly should be rolled the first year after sowing them, and if wet in character it may be advantageous to roll them every year, as they are much liable to heave in the winter and spring. It

is greatly important that lands should be rolled just in the nick of time, that is to say, just when they have become dry enough to bear up the horses without their poaching the land.

Alfalfa for Hay.

J. Wilson, Tilsonburg: Will it pay to grow alfalfa for hay in Ontario, or for any other use?

ANS.—Yes, under some conditions, but it is usually better not to sow it on land where it may not be permitted to grow for a number of years in succession. The two weak points in alfalfa are, first, that it takes time to establish itself, and, second, that it is not a good rotation crop. But when once established it will produce a large amount of excellent hay, or, if wanted for soiling uses, it may be cut from two to four times a year, according to season and climate. It would be much more popular for hay if more care were taken in curing it. In too many instances it is spoiled in the curing. People cut it down, and allow it to lie in the sun until it is so dry that the leaves fall off, which they do very easily in the heat of the day. It ought to be cut as soon as the blossoms appear. It should then, when sufficiently wilted, be raked in the evening. The difference between well-cured alfalfa hay and that improperly cured is as wide as the difference between day and night.

Sowing Grass Seeds.

Subscriber, Knowlton, P.Q.: Should grass seeds be covered when sown? Which crop answers best for a nurse crop?

ANS.—Grass seeds will usually prove more satisfactory in their growth when they are covered, but it is by no means necessary to cover them at all times. For instance, when sown very early in the spring on what are termed "sugar" snows, or on ground that is in a honeycombed condition because of freezing when saturated with water, they do not require to be covered with the harrow; but when sown on sandy soils, or on lands which have been sown with wheat or rye, and which cannot be thus seeded when in the honeycombed condition, it would be much better to wait until the ground dries off thoroughly, and then to cover them with the harrow as soon as sown. As is well known by those who have tried it, the harrowing is also good for the grain crop. When grass seeds are sown with a crop of grain in the spring, they should usually be allowed to fall behind the drill, although on light soils it may be well to let them fall before the drill. When they fall behind the drill, rolling the land will usually cover the seed sufficiently.